Convention of Public Sector Officers' Association

3173. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whehter the first-ever convention of Public Sector Officers' Association was held on 9th-10th March, 1992 at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed therein; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the resolutions passed therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Convention of Public Sector Officers which met on 9th and 10th March, 1992, have *inter alia* suggested alternative policy initiatives such as optimal utilisaiton of already built-up manufacturing and technological capability, import substitution being given priority over export earnings, employees' participation in management, intensive mobilisation of taxes, restraint in wasteful expendiutre, moratorium on internal and external borrowings etc. These suggestions would, however, be kept in view by the Government while considering different issues relating to public sector enterprises.

Cost of production of cement, steel and fertiliser

3174. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per unit cost of production of cement, steel and fertiliser in the country;

(b) how it compares with some of the developed countries;

(c) what are the reasons for higher cost of production of these items in the country;

(d) the details of measures taken b Government to reduce the cost of produc tion in the country; and

(e) what success has been achieved s far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMAT KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) CEMENT

The cost of production of cement (as i April, 1992) ranges between Rs. 775 pe tonne to Rs. 1500 per tonne. Compare to the developed countries, the cost c production of cement in India is highe for various reasons such as old and obso lete process technologies in many of th cement plants, small production base, in frastructural constraints, low quality c coal, etc.

Financial assistance has been provide to a number of units to modernise thei plants and for conversion from wet t dry process of manufacture. Currently plants with a capacity above 1 millio tonnes are being set up which will brin down the cost of production. The Ce ment Industry is also being provided in frastructural support such as adequat supply of coal, wagon, etc. on priorti basis in order to maximise production an remove regional imbalances. These mea sures are expected to yield favourable re sults.

STEEL:

The cost of production of various type of steel differs from unit to unit dependin upon the installed capacity, vintage of th plants, differences in technology, extent o automation, scope of operation, etc. I would not be in the commercial interes steel plants to disclose their cost of pro duction. However according to a com prehensive Techno-Economic Cost Evalua tion of the Integrated Steel Plants, base on the costing of 1987-88, done by th Bureau of Industrial Costs & Price (BICP), the average cost of productio for Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL was Rs. 6256 per tonne for 1987-88. Ac cording to the same Study, the cost o production for steel in some of the deve